



## WEEK 1 | DEVOTIONAL ENDURING THE UNKNOWN

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### RECEIVE

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Slowly. Prayerfully, read out loud **Luke 2:25–40**. Before and after each reading, pause for a moment and wait. In the silence, prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into knowing and living what you are receiving from the Scripture. Consider, how does God want you to respond in light of this passage?

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### REFLECT

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1. What is one idea from the message that really captured your attention? Why?
2. What makes waiting difficult for so many people? When are you most impatient in waiting?
3. What do we learn about the faith of Mary and Joseph from this passage?
4. What do we learn about Simeon and Anna, how are they described?
5. What spiritual practices do you see in the lives of Simeon and Anna? In what ways are Simeon and Anna examples for us?
6. What do you think would happen to your life and relationships if you incorporated these same practices into your life? Why?
7. How do these practices appear to have shaped the lives of Simeon and Anna? Reflect on Luke's descriptions for each of them, what stands out to you?

8. What correlation can you draw between how they lived and how they endured the unknown and the waiting?
9. If someone were to describe your life and faith what words, and practices do you think they would use?

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## RESPOND

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Imagine yourself on the scene with Simeon and Anna. Read the key passage again from this vantage point. Hearing how they responded to this little baby what would your response be?

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## RESOURCE

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Choose an Advent reader for you or your family this season. We have a few recommendations in our bookstore at the Oak Brook campus.

- Good for the whole family | *Jesus Listens*, by Sarah Young
- Recommend by our Preschool team | *Itsy Bitsy Christmas: A Reimagined Nativity Story for Advent and Christmas*, by Max Lucado
- Good for adults | *Honest Advent*, by Scott Erickson